

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04686 080646Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 H-02 HA-05 PA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2444

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC
SUBJ: BLACK HEBREWS

1. CONOFF VISITED THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY, MARCH 5, IN CONNECTION WITH W/W CASES. CONOFF HAD HOPED TO MEET WITH BEN AMI CARTER, COMMUNITY LEADER, TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY'S RELATIONS WITH GOI AUTHORITIES. UNFORTUNATELY, CARTER WAS UNEXPECTEDLY ABSENT FROM DIMONA.

2. CONOFF VISITED MAYOR OF DIMONA, ARMOND LARADO, AND DISCUSSED AT LENGTH MUNICIPAL RELATIONS WITH BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY. THE MAYOR, SAID THAT HE HAD CALLED PERSONALLY UPON MINISTER OF INTERIOR BURG APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS AGO TO PRESENT AN URGENT APPEAL BY THE CITY OF DIMONA FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE BLACK HEBREWS. THE MAYOR'S APPEAL WAS IN WRITING AND COPIES WERE PROVIDED TO OTHER INTERESTED CABINET MINISTERS, INCLUDING FOREIGN AFFAIRS, JUSTICE AND HOUSING. THE MAYOR AS A FIRST STEP, REQUESTED THE MINISTER'S PERMISSION TO ISSUE IDENTITY CARDS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY AND TO RESETTLE SOME MEMBERS FROM OVERCROWDED DIMONA TO ARAD, MITZPE RIMON AND YERUSHAM. THE MAYOR STATED THAT THE ONLY RESULT THUS FAR HAS BEEN AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE IDENTITY CARDS TO MEMBERS OF THE BLACK HEBREW COMMUNITY IN DIMONA.

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COMMENT: DURING THE DISCUSSION, THE MAYOR INDICATED THAT 16 BLACK HEBREW FAMILIES NOW HAVE RESIDENT STATUS IN ISRAEL. THE EMBASSY WAS UNAWARE PREVIOUSLY THAT THIS MANY FAMILIES HAD NOW REGULARIZED THEIR STATUS.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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